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Associated Press

GOP Senators Want to Remove Spying Restrictions

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WASHINGTON (AP) - Republican senators allied with Ronald Reagan have drafted a charter that would restructure U.S. intelligence agencies and remove restrictions on spying on Americans in an effort to make the agencies more effective.

Sen. Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming and five other Republican senators, all serving as advisers in Reagan's presidential campaign, drafted the charter. They plan to introduce it later this summer in conjunction with a Republican FBI charter, which also removes restrictions imposed after a Senate committee turned up abuses of civil liberties by the CIA and FBI during the 1960s and 1970s.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the Wallop draft.

"The worst abuse by these agencies has not been in civil liberties but in incompetence and bad intelligence," said a Senate staff aide, who helped draft the charter but asked not to be named. "The point of this charter is to get the job done to safeguard the people of the United States. How that is done is a practical question which is difficult to define in advance in a charter."

But a top CIA official, who asked anonymity, said, "This gives us powers we've never asked for and don't want." And a Justice Department official, who also did not want to be named, said, "This would weaken the intelligence community by casting its practices into further legal doubt."

The Wallop charter would:

- Split the CIA into an intelligence-gathering agency and an analytical agency, which the charter would put in competition with the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency in preparing analyses.

- Establish a new National Office of Counterintelligence with the power to have any intelligence agency investigate any American who may be engaged in clandestine intelligence activity, terrorism, drug trafficking or international organized crime.

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